

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01922 211836Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
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R 211608Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6194
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN
SUBJ: PROPOSED INCREASE IN IMF/IBRD STAFF SALARIES

REF: (A) STATE 67138 (B) COPENHAGEN 1448

1. OUR CONTACTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE NATIONAL BANK TELL US THAT THE DANISH POSITION ON THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN IMF/IBRD STAFF SALARIES IS STILL BEING FORMULATED (SEE REF B). THEY BOTH EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO GIVE US A DEFINITE REPLY SHORTLY AFTER EASTER.

2. A GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK SAID THAT THE DANES SYMPATHIZE WITH THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE U.S. INITIATIVE AND AGREE THAT WAGE INCREASES IN THEMSELVES ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOOD. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO SAY THAT THE MATTER IS QUITE COMPLICATED, NOTING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT (A) IMF/IBRD STAFF SALARIES ARE HIGH BUT NOT RELATIVE TO
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OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS OECD, BIS, AND THE EC AND (B) AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ENJOY CERTAIN TAX ADVANTAGES NOT AVAILABLE TO THEIR FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS.

3. THE GOVERNOR ALSO INDICATED SOME OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN ARRIVING AT THE DANISH DECISION; E.G., THE NEED TO

COORDINATE (A) WITH THE DANISH MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO IS PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS, AND (B) WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES.

4. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT DENMARK WOULD PROBABLY "ADVOCATE A LOW PROFILE AND THE SWALLOWING OF A COMPROMISE". BY COMPROMISE, HE SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL SCHEMES AFOOT WHICH WOULD PERMIT SALARY INCREASES BUT TO A LESSER EXTENT THAN THE PROPOSAL NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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